

# Fresh from recess, council delves in to amendments

The County Council returned from its recess on Tuesday and was briefed on two possible charter amendments, among other actions.

The Charter Review Commission, which reports to the council every two years, recommends designating County Council positions as full time, instead part time as is now the case. The change would be used to determine the annual salaries and benefits for council members, who now earn \$79,721 a year. The council president receives a yearly salary of \$87,694. The commission made no recommendation on whether council members should be allowed to work outside jobs.

## Council Notes

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The second recommendation would give the county executive 10 days, instead of 16, to sign or veto bills. On the 11th day, if the executive does nothing, the bill would become law. The council still would have 60 days to override the veto.

The commission also recommended no change in the number of signatures required to amend the charter, now set at 10,000.

A public hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. June 27. The council will later decide whether to place the items on the Nov. 7 ballot.

## In other action

•**Workforce housing:** The council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development committee voted 2-1 on Monday to forward an affordable housing plan, sponsored last year by Councilman Steven A. Silverman (D-At large) of Silver Spring, to the full council.

The plan would require all new residential developments built around Metro stations to set aside 10 percent of units as reduced-rate units designed to meet the income needs of two-income families, capped at 120 percent of area median annual income, or about \$100,000. The housing would be in addition to the current requirement for moderately priced dwelling units and developers would not be allowed to build extra market-rate units to make up the cost. Silverman said most units would be priced up to \$350,000.

The council is expected to vote on the bill June 27.

•**Fourth of July celebrations:** The county will host two fireworks displays this year: one on July 1 in Germantown Regional Park and one on July 4 at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will perform at the Germantown event.

•**Judicial annex:** The council unanimously approved a bill to begin the planning, design and construction of a new courthouse annex in Rockville.

The final cost for the plan is projected at \$120 million to \$170 million; about \$40 million will come from county funds. The new annex will house Circuit Court judges, the juvenile division, expansion of the State's Attorney's Office and other legal and public safety offices.

## Next week

•**Planning Board interviews** for the six remaining chairmanship applicants will be held 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. June 20 in the Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.